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Cochin China, of which finely illustrated accounts are appearing in *Globus*, the early numbers of which for the present year also contain some fine views of Yunnan.

THE GEOLOGICAL RECORD FOR 1874.<sup>1</sup>—This useful work is apparently a complete bibliography of all works, papers, and notes, on geology, mineralogy, and palæontology, published during the year 1874. It will be of course indispensable to American laborers in these fields, especially to those who do not have access to large libraries. The work seems to have been prepared with thoroughness, as there are twenty-seven contributors besides the editor, and it is accompanied by an index. The Record is divided into eight sections, namely, Stratigraphical and Descriptive Geology, Physical Geology, Applied and Economic Geology, Petrology, Mineralogy, Palæontology, Maps and Sections, Miscellaneous and General. Brief summaries of the most important works and essays give it a great value to the working geologist. There are more than two thousand entries.

JOHNSON'S CYCLOPÆDIA.<sup>2</sup>—With Professors F. A. P. Barnard and A. Guyot as editors-in-chief of this compact and useful cyclopædia, the reader may be assured that the articles upon scientific topics are reliable, accurate, and fresh. The associate editors are twenty-seven in number, embracing several of our leading scientists, and there are five assistant editors, whose names are well known in scientific and literary circles. The editors claim that of the articles "not fewer than two or three hundred, at the smallest estimate, are articles upon topics of interest in science, letters, and constructive art, of which the titles do not appear in any contemporary work of the kind; many of them having been, in fact, suggested by the recent progress of scientific discovery or literary research." We notice, in looking hastily through the second volume, articles by the following scientists: Barnard, Chandler, Cooke, Dawson, De Gubernatis, Gill, Goodale, Gray, Guyot, Hitchcock, Hunt, Packard, Riley, Verrill, Willey, Woodward, and Yule.

RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO NORTH AMERICAN MAMMALOLOGY.—During the last few months several important papers have appeared relating to the mammals of North America, chiefly by Dr. Elliott Coues and Dr. Theodore Gill. It is now several years since Dr. Coues began to divide his labors between the North American mammals and birds, his attention having formerly been given almost exclusively to the latter. The first general results of his work upon the mammals appeared in the form of a Synopsis of the Muridæ of North America.<sup>3</sup> This brochure of

<sup>1</sup> *The Geological Record for 1874. An Account of Works on Geology, Mineralogy, and Palæontology, published during the Year.* Edited by WILLIAM WHITTAKER. London: Taylor and Francis. 1875. 8vo, pp. 397.

<sup>2</sup> *Johnson's New Universal Cyclopædia. A Scientific and Popular Treasury of Useful Knowledge. Illustrated with Maps, Plans, and Engravings.* In 4 vols. Vol. ii. 1876. L—Lichens. Royal 8vo, pp. 1767. New York: A. J. Johnson and Son.

<sup>3</sup> *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, 1874.*

twenty-four pages is based on the material ("several thousand specimens") in the Museum of the Smithsonian Institution, and is stated to be an abstract of a memoir<sup>1</sup> in which the characters of the varieties, species, and higher groups are to be given, with synonymy, bibliography, etc. In this paper the family *Muridæ* is taken in its usual acceptation, with the exclusion of the genus *Jaculus* (= *Zapus*), formerly included among the *Muridæ*. The four introduced species, namely, the common house rats and mice, are mentioned merely by name, but the principal synonymy in the cases of the indigenous species, generic and subgeneric diagnosis, and the geographical distribution of the species and varieties are also added. Of the genus *Neotoma* four species are given, including one (*N. magister*) fossil from the caves of Pennsylvania. The others are *N. Floridana*, under which are placed *N. Mexicana* and *N. micropus* of Baird's General Report on the Mammals of North America; *N. fuscipes*, and *N. cinerea*, the latter embracing also *N. occidentalis* of Baird's General Report. The species of *Sigmodon* are reduced to one, *S. Berlandieri* Baird and *Hesperomys Tollicus* De Saussure being referred to *S. hispidus*. The species of *Hesperomys* are also greatly reduced in number, and are placed in three subgenera: *Vesperimus*, here first characterized, and *Onychomys* and *Oryzomys* of Baird. Of the subgenus *Vesperimus* six species are recognized, including two from Mexico, one of which is described as new. The other four are *H. leucopus*, with four varieties (*leucopus*, *gossypinus*, *Sonorienensis*, *eremicus*, and *aureolus*), *Michiganensis*, and *Californicus*. Under variety *leucopus* are included no less than fourteen nominal species of previous authors, while two others appear under variety *aureolus*. The subgenus *Onychomys* includes two species, one of which (*torridus*) is described as new from Arizona; the other (*leucogaster*) includes also the *Mus Missouriensis* of Audubon and Bachman. The subgenus *Oryzomys* embraces the single species *palustris*; making altogether nine North American species of *Hesperomys*. *Ochetodon* is described as a new genus, with three species given as well-established and two that are doubtful. In a foot-note, under *Ochetodon*, the genus *Ruthrodon* is characterized, and diagnosis given of its two subgenera, one of which (*Euneomys*) is new.

In the arvicoline group (subfamily *Arvicolinæ*) *Evotomys* is diagnosed as a new genus, with one species, the *netelies* of Pallas, which is regarded as circumpolar in its distribution, and as shading southward in North America into variety *Gappari* (= *Arvicola Gappari* auct.). The old genus *Arvicola* is divided into four subgenera, namely, *Myonomes* Raf., *Chilotus* and *Pedomys* Baird, and *Pitymys* McMurtrie, and embraces six species. To the old *A. riparius* Ord, or the common meadow

<sup>1</sup> This memoir forms the first of the Monographs of the North American Rodentia by Coues and Allen, now publishing in Dr. Hayden's quarto series of Reports of the United States Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories. The monograph of the Muridæ, we are informed, is already in type and will shortly be issued.

mouse of North America, are referred no less than eighteen specific names of former authors, while two other species (*Townsendii* and *xanthognathus*) are only provisionally regarded as distinct from this. The other three species of the old genus *Arvicola* have each also several synonyms, the *A. curlatus* of Cope (from California) being regarded as a variety of *austerus*, and a new variety of *pinetorum* is added, from Southeastern Mexico, a region where the genus was long supposed to be unrepresented. The subgenus *Synaptomys* Baird is raised to generic rank, and embraces the single species *Cooperi*, formerly referred to *Myodes*.

The lemmings of America are reduced to two species, which are referred to two genera — *Myodes* as restricted and *Coniculus* Wagler. The one (*M. obensis*) is confined to the western portions of arctic America, while the other (*C. hudsonius*) is found throughout the Arctic regions generally, and includes several nominal species. The muskrat. (*Fiber zibthicus*) closes the list of the North American *Muridæ*.

In no group of North American mammals have such extensive changes been as yet made as Dr. Coues has here found it necessary to adopt; few groups, too, have so much needed careful revision, or present a more difficult field of inquiry. The vast amount of material Dr. Coues has had as a basis for his work, and the evident care he has exercised in its elaboration, lead us to look forward with great interest to the appearance of the promised fuller exposition of the group.

Almost simultaneously with the appearance of this synopsis in its original place of publication, it was also reissued, with additions, as one of the publications of the Northern Boundary Commission, as the "first of a series of preliminary zoölogical reports which may appear from time to time, during the elaboration of the material secured by the Boundary Commission."<sup>1</sup> The additions appear to consist mainly of a list of ten species collected during the survey, with notes on their distribution.

As previously noticed, Dr. Coues, in his definition of the family *Muridæ*, excluded from it the genus *Jaculus*. This genus he has since raised to the rank of a distinct family,<sup>2</sup> to which he has given the name *Zapodidæ*. The results of his investigation of this species he summarizes as follows: (1.) That there is at present only one known

<sup>1</sup> *On the Muridæ of the Northern Boundary Survey, with a Critical Revision of the North American Genera and Species.* United States Northern Boundary Commission. Archibald Campbell, Esq., Commissioner. Major W. J. Twining, United States Engineers, Chief Astronomer. Natural History. No. 1. On the Muridæ. By ELLIOTT COUES, United States Army, Surgeon and Naturalist of the Commission. Reissued, with additions, from the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, 1874. Philadelphia. Collins, printer. 1874. 8vo, pp. 28.

<sup>2</sup> *Some Account, Critical, Descriptive, and Historical, of Zapus Hudsonius.* By DR. ELLIOTT COUES, United States Army. Bulletin of the United States Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories. Second Series, No. 5, pp. 253–262, January 8, 1875. It was also reissued separately by the author, the separate copies bearing date 1875.

species of *Zapus*. (2.) That this species, usually referred to the *Muridæ*, differs from the *Muridæ* to a degree warranting its recognition as a distinct family, as was done by Dr. Gill in 1872. Its principal characters are the presence of an upper premolar not found in *Muridæ* proper, the different and peculiar construction of the ante-orbital foramen, and the saltatorial development of the hind limbs. (3.) That none of the various generic names that had been applied to this species were tenable, according to recognized rules of nomenclature. He then proceeds to show why the former generic appellations of *Meriones*, *Jaculus*, *Dipus*, and *Gerbillus* are inapplicable, and proposes the new one of *Zapus*, in allusion to its large hind feet. The adoption of this name for the genus he considers as necessitating the changing of the family name from *Jaculidæ* to *Zapodidæ*. Then follows the generic and specific synonymy, amounting to one and a half pages, the latter embracing more than a dozen specific names, four of which have had, at different times, considerable prominence. Detailed descriptions are also given of the cranial, dental, and external characters of the genus, with a notice of its geographical distribution, and remarks on its synonymy.

BRINTON'S MYTHS OF THE NEW WORLD.<sup>1</sup>—“Picking painfully amid the ruins of a race gone to wreck centuries ago, rejecting much foreign rubbish and scrutinizing each stone that lies around, if we still are unable to rebuild the edifice in its pristine symmetry, yet we can at least discern and trace the ground plan and outlines of the fane.” This is what the author has most successfully done, and the results of his studies are attractively embodied in the handsome volume before us. Freed from the false interpretations so frequently placed upon them, we have here given us what certainly can be accepted as a very correct idea of the mental condition and peculiarity of those strange tribes of men, the so-called Indians of North and South America. Chapters II. to X. inclusive cover the fascinating field of study suggested by the ideas of God among the Red race; Sacred Numbers, The Symbol of the Bird and Serpent, Myths of Water, Fire, Thunder, and the Religion of Sex; also the subject of their Supreme Gods, The Myths of Creation, the Deluge, Nature's Epochs and the Last Day. Chapters VIII. and IX. are devoted to the subject of the origin of man and the soul and its destiny, as these vexed questions of our day were looked upon by the Red men, and to us are the most entertaining chapters of the work. The author traces back the myths of the Red men generally back to the one solar myth, and disposes of the personality of their god-like heroes, as Quetzalcoatl, Viracocha, and Michabo.

The opening chapter, a general consideration of the Red race, is not, to us, quite so satisfactory as the body of the work. While a most excellent *résumé* of the proofs of the antiquity of American man is given,

<sup>1</sup> *The Myths of the New World*. A Treatise on the Symbolism and Mythology of the Red Race of America. By D. G. BRINTON, A. M., M. D. Second Edition. revised. New York: Henry Holt & Co. 1876. \$2.50.